

#2 6/13/16  
Grand Rapids Home

## **Statement of Kenneth W. Hammond**

**Acting president of the GRHV Member Council**

**Good morning. First of all, I would like to thank both the Oversight and Ethics Committee chaired by Representative Ed McBroom and the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee chaired by Representative Tom Barrett, for coming to *our Home*, the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans today, as well as all for all the hard work that everyone on both committees have done recently to make this be *a true home* once again. I also would like to say a special thank you to those of you who have taken the time out of your busy schedules to visit here on your own and all the effort you have put forth to find out the truth of how terribly this place was being managed. I would also like to thank the members of this home and others who have come here today to give statements to these two committees**

**Due to that effort that you folks have given, we have now had some exceptional changes in the administration and the right people have been put in place to run our Home the way it should be run. I want to give kudos to those that searched for and found Leslie Shanlin, and Scott Blackney! Many of our members and the others that are here today have been wanting to speak to you about various issues for some time and I personally want to thank you for giving them the time and the proper forum for them to speak.**

**Personally the reason I have come before you today, was to first introduce myself to everyone here and to let you know the direction we have planned for the G.R.H.V. Member Council. Very briefly, I am hoping we will get the Member Council back up to the status it was a few years ago, with the proper number of delegates to represent each of our units here at the home. I believe that the Member Council is a very integral part of this home as it allows the members an open area to discuss problems that cannot be resolved through the normal chain of command. And it is my hope that the Member Council can work**

**hand-in-hand with the administration here as well as the Board of Managers and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to make this home the home it was originally intended to be!**

**I am hoping that the Members Council will do the job it used to do and hopefully solve the member's problems before they get to the point they are at today. I feel optimistic that between the Member Council, the new administration, and organizations like the Veterans for Justice as well as the people on your committees, we will no longer have the issues that we ran into before. I hope as well that before long we can again hold an election for the positions of President and Vice-President for the Member Council so we can have these positions filled by the member's candidates instead of just anyone that was appointed by some of our previous administration.**

**Also, in addition I would like to mention one of the main things I feel that has been lost here over the last five years is the vision and the mission that this home was designed for. The previous administrator was trying to operate this to be a money making business instead of a *home for disabled veterans*, and that IS NOT why this place was built. We understand this place cannot be operated at a monetary loss continually, but if money becomes the cause of the members that live here being neglected and suffering, just so administrators can make more money and look good to their superiors, then that is something that is a very big problem.**

**In conclusion, I just hope and pray that I can get everyone that is listening to me ramble on, to understand just that one simple fact, that the name of this place says it all, the Grand Rapids HOME for Veterans. It does not say the State of Michigan's Place to make money! And in my opinion, that is what Sara Dunne and Eric Alderman thought it was, and I for one am glad asked to leave!**

**Thank you again for allowing me this time before you and I hope you take the words to heart spoken by those here to speak to you today**

**because I don't think they would take time to be here if they didn't feel it was extremely important! Thank you.**